

Uintah Watershed Council Meeting

Attendees:

Peggy Killian - Rancher	Brett Prevedel
Jordan Dimick – Trout Unlimited	Nathan Hall – DEQ
Cheyenne Reid – USU	Darrell Gillman - UDAF
Dex Winterton – Moon Lake	Adam Clark - DWRe
Jeff Crozier – Javelin Energy	Holly Mitchell - BLM
Mike Hyde – PLPCO	Hollee Wood – The Langdon Group
William Merkley – Uintah Water Conservancy District	Andy Rasmussen – The Langdon Group
Clyde Watkins – Duchesne County Water Conservancy District	

Ratification of Charter Document

- Organizing document was approved by statewide council (Utah Watersheds Council)
 - Council needs to ratify it with changes from the statewide council
- Does the council want to leave the code and footnotes within our organizing documents? The statewide council said we can remove these if we would like
 - Might be nice to have the code available for when we have questions
 - Seems like codes and things change all the time – if we leave it on there then we must stay up to date on those changes
 - Council discussion to take out code references within organizing documents
- Our name is “Uintah Watershed Council” as defined by legislation, but our bounds are not limited to Uintah County or Uintah Basin
- Member terms are currently set to 4 years, but this can be adjusted to other time periods (2 or 3 year)
- Council can vote with majority to add council members when a seat is vacant or if max number has not been met
- Current bylaw language requires 2 nominees to fill a vacant or vacated seat
 - Motion to change template bylaws language to need only 1 nominee to fill a seat
 - Jordan Dimick made motion
 - William Merkley seconded motion
 - Motion unanimously approved
- No limit to the number of terms a council member can serve
- May need to look into the other counties that fall within the watershed who we don’t already have representation for
 - Those other counties may not be inhabited in those areas where our watershed overlaps
- Luana Thompson has since said that she is not able to participate on the council at this time, so we will need to find other tribal representation
 - Remove Luana Thompson from council member list
- Compensation is not given for time on the council, but per diem and mileage are available for those who may be traveling for this meeting or other needs for this council
 - We will send that information out

- Subcommittees can be made on any subject to tackle any issue – these can and probably should include liaisons. Subcommittee members do not have to be voting members of this council. Subcommittee members have a “vote” for their subcommittee, but don’t have one for the larger council
- Majority is 50% plus 1
- Proposed changes to the organizing documents
 - 1. Remove Luana Thompson as council member
 - 2. Remove code references within document
 - 3. Require 1 nominee instead of 2 to fill a vacant seat
- Motion to include all those 3 changes and have that be the amended organizing document
 - Dex Winterton made motion
 - Clyde Watkins seconded motion
 - Motion unanimously approved
- Motion to make those changes and ratify amended organizing document
 - William Merkley made motion
 - Jordan Dimick seconded motion
 - Unanimously approved

Discussion About Other Watershed Councils in Utah

- These councils are intended to be grassroots, and you are able to determine what you want to accomplish and do
- Many of the other councils are currently using their first 6-12 months to learn more about one another and more about the watershed
 - What are the other councils doing?
 - Weber River: GSL airboat tour where river meets the lake, and rafting trip down Weber River near Henefer
 - Utah Lake: tours around the Lake (stopping at special service districts, conservancy districts, orchards, etc...) and touring Deer Creek Reservoir
 - Utah Lake created a subcommittee to help arrange these tours and determine logistics
 - Bear River: toured Bear River Canal Company and plan to tour Bear Lake in summer
 - Doing this can help establish a list of needs and potential projects that this council wants to work on for this watershed
 - Although funding for these projects is not available yet, it is possible that funding will be available within the next couple of years. There are also people in this room who know how to access funding for projects and that is another potential source (applying for grants).
- The Langdon Group has been coordinating with the Colorado River Authority to help not duplicate efforts that these groups are working on – there are members of this council that are also members of that group as well and we want to work to make it as best as possible for these individuals and between the two groups

- Is there a defined goal or purpose for this council that has been established by the legislature or in documents somewhere?
 - Policy workshop – roll local issues up to the statewide council who will roll up to the legislature
 - Councils are intended to create their own goals and define their own purpose
- How does this relate with WRI or Uintah Basin watershed council?
 - Uintah Basin watershed council is very focused on water quality, whereas this council has a much broader focus
 - There may be some overlapping or needing to figure out how to best interact or work with one another with WRI
 - WRI is mainly comprised of federal and state agency individuals, whereas this council is meant to be made up of a broader group of stakeholders
- There are so many groups out there working on different things and they don't know what each other are doing. How do these groups work together instead of hurting each other or redoing the same work?
 - That is one of the primary roles why these councils were created. They are intended to have the right cross-section of people in the room to bring all the right knowledge into the same group and hopefully avoid duplicating efforts and increase knowledge of current efforts happening within the watershed.

Discussion of Desired Course for the Uintah Council

- There are a lot of possibilities for what we can do or what we can focus on
 - We can provide support to other groups that are currently working on projects or who have access to funding already
 - We can subcontract with other groups to get projects done
 - We can be an entity that goes out to get projects (Trout Unlimited can be the money handler if this is something we want to do)
 - We can try and sway politically
 - Identify and prioritize the needs of the watershed and direct those who can get the resources to the support or funding they need
- Let's invite other groups who are currently working on things out here and learn more about what they are doing and then they can also learn that we exist as well (will invite these groups to attend the next or future meetings)
 - Colorado River Authority
 - Watershed Restoration Initiative (Adam Clark can provide a summary of WRI projects that are currently underway)
 - Uintah Basin Watershed group
 - Grazing Improvement Project
 - White River Partnership

Public Input

- No public comments

Schedule for 2024

- Next Uintah watershed council meeting: Thursday, January 11th at 4 pm at Uintah Conference Center
 - Virtual link: <https://jubengineers.zoom.us/j/5825820003?omn=83115713892>
- Thursday, April 11th at 2 pm
- Thursday, July 11th at 2pm
- Thursday, October 10th at 2 pm

Meeting Adjourned